

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 21 are pending in the present application. As an initial matter, Applicant thanks the Examiner for the allowance of claims 1 to 21. A Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement was submitted on December 29, 2003. Applicant respectfully requests an initialed copy of the PTO-1449 paper that accompanied the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement with the next Office communication.

Claim 5 has been amended herein without prejudice or waiver to correct the informality noted in the Office Action, namely, "a synchromesh body" has been changed to --the synchromesh body--. It is therefore respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance.

All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed, it is therefore respectfully requested that the present application issue as early as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

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